

Message Text

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TOSEC 158

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 15915 SENT ACTION SECSTATE

INFO BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN DUBLIN THE HAGUE LONDON

LUXEMBOURG ROME EC BRUSSELS, JUNE 28TH:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 15915

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, FR, EC

SUBJECT: FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN ENERGY COOPERATION
PROGRAM

REF: PARIS 15013; LONDON 8030

1. FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS, MFA, CABOUAT, HIS DEPUTY FOR ENERGY PROBLEMS,
AND OUR BRITISH COLLEAGUES, THE FOLLOWING PICTURE
EMERGES OF THE VIEWS OF THE GISCARD GOVERNMENT ON FRENCH
PARTICIPATION IN THE ENERGY COOPERATION PROGRAM AMONG
MAJOR OIL IMPORTERS: A) THE GOF HAS NO INTENTION OF
JOINING THE ECG. IN A CONVERSATION WITH ECON/COM MIN
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JUNE 27, BRUNET CATEGORICALLY DENIED PRESS REPORTS TO THE

EFFECT THAT FRANCE WAS READY TO JOIN THE ECG. B) FRANCE IS DESIROUS OF PARTICIPATING FULLY IN THE ENERGY COOPERATION PROGRAM AND IS ACTIVELY SEEKING A FORMULA WHICH WILL PERMIT SUCH PARTICIPATION. THE FRENCH HAVE RECEIVED AND CAREFULLY STUDIED A COPY OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL ON THE IEP. (IT WAS GIVEN TO THEM BY THE GERMANS.) THE QUESTION OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION WAS SUBMITTED TO GISCARD FOR A POLICY DECISION. GISCARD ASKED THAT THE PAPER BE CAREFULLY STUDIED BY APPROPRIATE FRENCH OFFICIALS. HE ALSO SAID THAT FRANCE SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE ENERGY COOPERATION PROGRAM PROVIDED IT WAS BROUGHT UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE OECD, AND THAT HIGH PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO FINDING A FORMULA WHICH WOULD PERMIT FRENCH PARTICIPATION ON THESE TERMS. C) THE FRENCH UNDERSTAND OUR RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE OECD AS AN AGENCY FOR DEALING WITH AN ACTION ORIENTED PROGRAM BUT BELIEVE THAT WITH INGENUITY AND IMAGINATION SOLUTIONS CAN BE FOUND.

2. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS IN THE U.S. INTEREST TO FIND A WAY TO PERMIT FULL FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE ENERGY COOPERATION PROGRAM IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER. THERE IS AT THE PRESENT TIME A POLITICAL CLIMATE IN FRANCE FAVORABLE TO REVERSING SOME OF THE MISTAKES OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, PROVIDED THIS CAN BE DONE IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WILL NOT LOOK LIKE A NAKED REVERSAL OF THE POLICIES OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, WHICH WOULD PROVOKE VIOLENT OPPOSITION OF GAULLIST DIEHARDS. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS FAVORABLE SITUATION TO BRING FRENCH INTO THE ENERGY COOPERATION PROGRAM.

3. THERE WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO BE SOME ACCOMMODATION BY US OF FRENCH VIEWS, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT A FORMULA CAN BE DEvised WHICH WOULD MEET FRENCH CONCERNS AND AT THE SAME TIME BE PERFECTLY CONSISTENT WITH OUR OWN PROPOSALS ON IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS AND OUR DESIRE THAT THESE MECHANISMS NOT BECOME BOGGED DOWN IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES. ONE IDEA WHICH HAS COME UP IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG SOME OF THE EUROPEANS WHICH WE THINK MERITS CONSIDERATION IS THAT A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEPARATE ENERGY AGENCY SIMILAR TO THE NEA BE SET UP IN THE OECD UNDER PART II OF THE OECD BUDGET. 6) AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, PART II ACTIVITIES CAN BE LIMITED TO THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM AND ONLY THOSE GOVERNMENTS WHICH PARTICIPATE ARE REQUIRED TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE COST OF THE ACTIVITY. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE U.S. TAKE THE LEAD DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE ECG ON THE CREATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

MECHANISMS FOR THE IEP TO DEVISE SOME SUCH FORMULA WHICH
WILL PERMIT THESE MECHANISMS TO BE BROUGHT UNDER THE
AEGIS OF THE OECD IN ORDER TO FACILITATE FRENCH
PARTICIPATION.
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